

Abstract

The present invention provides a system for generating nucleic acid molecules having reduced levels of secondary structure compared to nucleic acid molecules of the same nucleotide sequence containing only naturally-occurring bases. Such molecules are referred to
5 herein as "unstructured nucleic acids" (UNAs). UNAs have reduced levels of secondary structure because of their reduced ability to form intramolecular hydrogen bond base pairs between regions of substantially complementary sequence. Preferred UNAs, however, retain the ability to form intermolecular hydrogen bond base pairs with other nucleic acid molecules.

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